

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

DATE: June, 1998

REPLY TO:
ATTN OF: Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance: DiCerbo 6-5047

SUBJECT: **APPLICABLE OR RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS (ARARs) FOCUS AREA**

TO: Distribution

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, requires that remedial actions comply with Federal and State environmental requirements that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate (ARARs). Applicable requirements are those cleanup standards, standards of control, and criteria promulgated under Federal or State law that specifically address a hazardous substance, remedial action, location, or other circumstance at a CERCLA environmental restoration site. Relevant and appropriate requirements are those same standards mentioned above that, while not applicable at the CERCLA site, address problems or situations sufficiently similar to those encountered at the site that their use is well suited to the particular site.

Identification of ARARs at CERCLA sites is the major prerequisite for setting cleanup goals and selecting a remedies that are protective of human health and the environment. Understanding and identifying all pertinent ARARs at a given site, however, can be a complicated process. The National Contingency Plan (NCP) describes in detail the criteria for complying with ARARs (40 CFR 300.400).

To assist the Department in meeting its responsibility regarding ARARs, the Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance (EH-41) has established an ARARs Focus Area on the EH-41 World Wide Website. This Focus Area provides a forum for the exchange and dissemination of information, experiences and ideas amongst DOE elements on the ARARs process. The ARARs Focus Area provides:

- An Internet-based, unmoderated "ARARs Open Forum" where users may exchange information on ARARs, post questions, review past exchanges among forum users, and search for responses to questions posted;
- Access to training materials used for the EH-41 ARARs Workshop. All of the workshop viewgraphs and the student notebook are available for viewing or downloading; and,
- A compilation of key external sources (Internet-links) for additional information on ARARs. Direct links to related environmental guidance posted on the EH-41 website.

The ARARs Focus Area is available on the EH-41 website at <http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/oepa> by selecting "Focus Area" from the button bar. Alternatively, the OEPA ARARs Web site may be accessed directly at <http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/oepa/arars>. Any questions about the ARARs Forum may be directed to Jerry DiCerbo of my staff at (202) 586-5047.

Thomas T. Traceski
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Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance